



**New York City DC 37 Retirees Association  
Special Membership Meeting Minutes  
May 5, 2026, at 10:00AM  
Virtual (Via Zoom & Phone)**

Administrator Ann Widger called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. She gave an overview of the purpose and process for the special meeting to read and take questions on the proposed constitutional amendments presented by the Association's Policy and Governance Committee.

She noted that this special meeting is the first meeting required under the current constitution to read the changes/amendments. She introduced and thanked the Association's Policy & Governance committee members: Juan Fernandez, Ed Hysyk, Roberta Jackson, Julie Leibowitz, Bob Pfefferman, Aida Ross and Stephanie Thomas for their time and energy and the hard work they put into deliberating and crafting the best Constitution for the Association moving forward.

If you need more information, it can be found at [www.dc37retirees.org/amend](http://www.dc37retirees.org/amend). We have a second special meeting on **Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 10:00am ET for members to vote on the amended constitution**. The meeting will be held by phone ONLY. **To join, dial: 1-855-269-4484**

She then turns the meeting over to the committee to present.

Stephanie Thomas read the summary of changes for Article I through V. Listed in the [summary document](#).

Roberta Jackson read the summary of changes to Article VI. Listed in the [summary document](#).

Juan Fernandez read the summary of changes to Article VI. Listed in the [summary document](#).

Julie Leibowitz notes that she is proud of the work that the members of the committee and AFSCME were able to do to create an Association Constitution that will move the Association towards lifting the administratorship. She read the summary of changes for Articles VII and VIII. Listed in the [summary document](#).

Bob Pfefferman seconds Julie's remarks and agrees that the amended constitution as presented should be adopted as a whole. He read the summary of changes for Articles IX and X. Listed in the [summary document](#).

Roberta Jackson read the summary of changes for Article X. Listed in the [summary document](#).

Committee presentation concluded.

Questions from the phone and Zoom were read and answered as follows:

1. Q: Why are you changing the constitution?

- A. The Committee went through the entire document and modernized and updated based on current operations and AFSCME standards.
2. Q: Will clarification of election process push new election to early 2027, or could a special election be held sooner?
- A. The amended constitution states that nominations will take place in June of 2026.
3. Q: Article V Section 2: The original proposal from the committee allowed the membership to call for a special meeting via a petition from 10% of the members. What is the rationale for now increasing that requirement to 15%?
- A. The International Union requires 15% of the membership to sign petitions. It's a policy of AFSCME who approves constitutions for affiliates.
4. Q: Is there any way you can change it to be able to pay your dues in advance for more than one year at a time?
- A. With a membership of 27,000 record keeping could create challenges in this instance. Consider paying dues by deduction or credit card.
5. Q: How many members are required to vote before these changes are implemented?
- A. We are guided by the current constitution as it exists, which is a quorum of 50 members. On May 27 we need 50 members to participate in the meeting to vote, and it would be a majority of those members present.
6. Q: Clarify the discipline section?
- A. That entire Article which spelled out an internal discipline process for members was removed, and it was replaced with Article X, Section 6. Which states that members now instead could avail themselves of the International Union Judicial Panel process.
7. Q: Florida will now have a VP, is that correct? If so, will we receive more information?
- A. Yes, they will have a VP. That's why we wanted to have e-board seats for states with larger populations of members. Hopefully, you will get more information from that board member, and there will be more information coming out once this new constitution is approved. Then we'll announce nominations for office.
8. Q: I heard the VP mention NJ and FL, would there be a VP seat for AZ and other states?
- A. VP seats criteria is the number of members in the region, and 1,000 was the threshold to create VP in those areas. All areas are represented on the board.
9. Q: Will you be mailing out the proposed constitutional changes in paper format?
- A. You will receive a copy of the summary mailed to you. The changes are a very large document. If you have an issue with the computer, call the office at 212-815-1781 and we will do our best to help you get that larger document.
10. Q: Why are the membership meetings reduced from 9 times to 6 times a year?
- A. The committee felt at least 6 per year in each of the quarters is sufficient. It also does not limit more. It also allows more outreach outside the city while still holding meetings in the city. It gives the Association the time to have informational/non-decision-making meetings in other places to support the memberships.
11. Q: Once a VP is elected to the states and areas of those living outside of NY, how will the members be notified of any meetings and how will the members be able to reach out to the newly elected person and will there be a board elected?
- A. If this Constitution is approved by the members at the May 27 meeting, it spells out that the next election will be held in 2026; nominations will open in June if there's more than one person nominated for an office then a balloted election will be held in July. The regional VPs will be elected by the members of their regions. As for notification, the Association uses multiple ways to send out information. Hopefully,

everyone is on our email list. You can sign on our website [www.dc37retireesassociation.org](http://www.dc37retireesassociation.org). There is also a calendar on the website for meetings. When we can we send out a postcard and you can always call the office at 212-815-1781 or email at [retirees@dc37.net](mailto:retirees@dc37.net).

12. Q: What is the reason for region restrictions?

A. We looked at the membership numbers throughout the country, and 1,000 members threshold seems to be an acceptable number. That's what we are operating with now and maybe in the future the benchmark could change. Again, everyone will be represented on the board by the VP at large position.

13. Q: Will there be another opportunity to voice concerns after this zoom yet before the 27th?

A. You can email us at [retirees@dc37.net](mailto:retirees@dc37.net). The meeting to vote on May 27 will follow the normal parliamentary procedure.

14. Q: Could our constitution require a clause to include DC 37 retirees in the negotiation process for healthcare or anything that has a major impact on us that comes up for vote?

A. We added into the Constitution how retiree delegates are appointed to the DC 37 delegates assembly. That is how retiree voices can be heard in those discussions.

15. Q: Article VI Section 4f: What is the rationale for the inclusion of "retiree organization"?

A. This section was an update from existing language. The Association represents public service retirees, and retiree organizations should be included along with union for clarity. The way it's written is that a member could challenge the eligibility of someone to run for office if they were an officer or employee of a competing union or retiree organization. The membership ultimately decides to approve or reject the election committee's recommendations on challenges.

16. Q: Article VI Section 4e: What is the rationale for removing the eligibility ban to run for office for someone who has been convicted of a financial crime?

A. Financial crime is a bit broad and could sweep in irrelevant offenses. There is a process to challenge a member's ability to run, and an election committee could make that determination.

17. Q: Article VII Section 2: Why is the requirement only to post a summary of the Executive Board meetings to the website, rather than to post the complete minutes of the meetings?

A. It is common practice to post a summary. The executive board can post full minutes at their discretion and are often available at a member's request.

18. Q: Which meetings are virtual and which will be at the union?

A. In the Constitution, it says membership meetings will be at 125 Barclay Street with a virtual option for members whenever possible. You can usually find that information in the PEP or call the Association's office.

19. Q: Article IX Section 3: Will the proposed budget and updates to the budget be among the financial documents posted to the website? If not, why not?

A. The Secretary Treasurer is required under their duties to report to every Executive Board and membership meeting the receipts, disbursements, balance and liabilities of the Association. What is posted would be Executive Board discretion beyond the requirement that financial reports from membership meetings be posted, which is already being done.

**CLOSING REMARKS**

The committee members gave their endorsement for approving the Constitution as it has been proposed. They spoke of their personal appreciation for being a part of the process and thanked the members for their participation. Next meeting to vote on the constitution will be held Wednesday, May 27 at 10AM on the phone only.

The meeting was adjourned.